



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029**

October 23, 2006

Monongahela National Forest
Attn: Forest Plan Revision Comments
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, WV 26241

September 26, 2005

Re: Monongahela National Forest Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for
Forest Plan Revision, September 2006 CEQ # 20060381

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the above referenced project. Since the Forest Plan does not compel the agency to undertake any site-specific project; rather it provides goals and objectives for the Forest Service to strive to meet in order to achieve desired physical, biological, social, and economic conditions, it is difficult to determine actual impacts that may be caused by this action.

As stated in our November 3, 2006 letter, we recommend that Forest Service continue to develop methods to reduce impacts caused by commercial and recreational activities, minimize fragmentation from roadways, and continue to coordinate with the appropriate state and federal agencies regarding threatened and endangered species and their habitat on the property. Any projects referenced in this EIS should comply with NEPA requirements.

Based on this review, we have no objection to the proposed project and have no additional comments. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Okorn at (215)814-3330.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "William Arguto", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

William Arguto
NEPA Team Leader